

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 CPR-01 OPR-02

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O 271450Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6079

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE

US MISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 678

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 10351

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT ET

SUBJECT: DEATH OF EMPEROR HAILE SELASSIE I

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. AT 1400 HOURS LOCAL AUGUST 27 AMHARIC NEWS BROADCAST  
ANNOUNCED THE DEATH OF FORMER EMPEROR HAILE SELASSIE I. UNOFFICIAL  
TRANSLATION OF ANNOUNCEMENT FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: A SPOKESMAN OF THE PMAC TODAY ANNOUNCED THE DEATH IN BED  
OF FORMER EMPEROR HAILE SELASSIE. HE DIED AS THE RESULT OF ILLNESS.  
IT IS TO BE RECALLED THAT THE FORMER EMPEROR HAD BEEN HOSPITALIZED  
UNDER THE CARE OF DR. ASRAT WELDEYES IN COLLABORATION WITH  
FOREIGN DOCTORS. AT THAT TIME A SUCCESSFUL OPERATION WAS  
PERFORMED. SINCE THEN, HOWEVER, HIS HELATH HAD DETERIORATED.  
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AT THE FORMER EMPEROR'S REQUEST AND BY PERMISSION OF THE PMAC,

HIS DAUGHTER, TENAGNE WORK, AND HIS GRANDDAUGHTER, AIDA DESTA, VISITED THE EMPEROR FOR 24 HOURS ON AUGUST 23. SINCE THE EMPEROR WAS 84 YEARS OLD AND HIS ILLNESS HAD BEEN BECOMING WORSE, HE WAS VISITED BY A DOCTOR ON AUGUST 25 AND WAS BEING TREATED FROM THAT TIME. HIS CONDITION BECAME CRITICAL ON AUGUST 26 AND A CONTINUOUS BUT UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT WAS MADE THROUGHOUT AUGUST 26 TO REACH HIS PRIVATE PHYSICIAN DR. ASRAT WELDEYES. DR. ASRAT AND OTHER DOCTORS WERE REQUESTED TO COME TO TREAT THE EMPEROR ON AUGUST 27. THIS MORNING, HOWEVER, THE SERVANT OF THE EMPEROR FOUND HIM DEAD IN BED BEFORE THE DOCTORS ARRIVED. END QUOTE END UNCLASSIFIED

2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: EPMG HAS YET TAKEN NO ACTION REGARDING ANY ARRANGEMENTS FOR FORMER EMPEROR'S FUNERAL. EMBASSY BELIEVES IT IS TOO EARLY TO MAKE ANY DECISION ON AN OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO HAILE SELASSIE'S DEATH. IF, HOWEVER, DEPARTMENT'S NOON BRIEFING PRODUCES PRESSURE FOR DEPT REACTION, EMBASSY SUGGEST THAT SPOKESMAN SIMPLY NOTE THAT THE U.S. MOURNS THE PASSING OF THE WORLD FAMOUS AND HISTORICAL AFRICAN LEADER.

3. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT HAILE SELASSIE DIED IN OTHER THAN NORMAL AND PEACEFUL CIRCUMSTANCES.

4. ALTHOUGH AT THIS WRITING NEWS OF THE DEATH IS LESS THAN TWO HOURS OLD, ADDIS IS CALM WITH TRAFFIC AND SECURITY PRECAUTIONS NORMAL.

5. ABC AND NBC NEWS, NEW YORK, HAVE ALREADY CALLED EMBASSY FOR STATEMENT ON EMPEROR'S DEATH. WE REPEATED GIST OF PARA ONE ABOVE, BUT MADE NO FURTHER COMMENT. END CONFIDENTIAL HUMMEL

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## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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